

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 032673

R 071645Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8213

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: FINAL FOUND ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

REF: ATHENS 2539

1. SUMMARY. CANDIDATES SUPPORTED BY OPPOSITION  
POLITICAL PARTIES WON AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THE BALANCE  
OF 115 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WHICH WERE LEFT UNDECIDED  
FROM THE FIRST ROUND (REFTEL. ALL LARGER CITIES NOW HAVE  
MAYORS OFFICIALLY ENDORSED BY ONE OR BOTH OF GREECE'S TWO  
COMMUNIST PARTIES AS WELL AS OTHER ANTI-GOG PARTIES.  
THE PARTISAN LABELS WERE WORN SO LOOSELY IN MANY OF THE  
CAMPAIGNS THAT IT REMAINS UNCERTAIN TO WHAT DEGREE THIS  
SUPPORT, AND ITS CONSEQUENT GRATITUDE, OBLIGATIONS AND  
ALLIANCES, TOGETHER WITH OPPORTUNISM, WILL NOW COMBINE  
TO INFLUENCE AND INTERRELATE POLITICS ON THE LOCAL LEVEL  
WITH THE NATIONAL SCENE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO INTERESTING ELECTIONS, THE PORT CITY OF PIRAEUS  
AND THE WORKING CLASS ATHENS SUBURB OF KESARIANI, WHICH  
TRADITIONALLY ELECT COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, "NATIONAL"  
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COMMUNISTS ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE CU/NF ANDPASOK WON

AGAINST KKE/EXTERIOR CANDIDATES. PIRAEUS, VOULODIMOS GARNERED ABOUT 72PCT OF THE VOTE, AN IMPRESSIVE WIN OVER THE KKE/EXTERIOR CANDIDATE, KYRIAKAKOS. IN KESARIANI ONLY 60 VOTES SEPARATED THE TWO COMMUNIST RUN-OFF CANDIDATES. IN THE MOST IMPORTANT AND SURPRISING OF THE RUN-OFF ELECTIONS, THESSALONIKI, PAPADOPOULOS, BACKED BY THE FOUR MINOR PARTIES OF THE LEFT UPSET THE CU/NF SUPPORTED CANDIDATE, ZANNAS BY 836 VOTES OUT OF 123,000 BALLOTS CAST.

3. A NUMBER OF NON-PARTISAN OR CONSERVATIVE-IMAGE CANDIDATES WHO LED IN THE FIRST ROUND MARCH 30 WERE DEFEATED IN THIS ROUND. THE RATHER INTENSELY EXPLOITED THEME OF THE LAST FEW DAYS OF CAMPAIGNING--"THROW OUT THE JUNTA MAYORS"--CONTRIBUTED TO CUTTING BACK THEIR INITIAL MOMENTUM. MANY OF THE WINNING SLATES HAD VARYING DEGREES OF OPPOSITION ENDORSEMENT AND THE MAJOR DAILIES DISAGREE AS TO THE PARTISAN IMPACT OF THESE FINAL RESULTS. PRO-PASOK ATHINAIKI CLAIMED ALMOST ALL THE LOCAL ELECTIONS WERE TRIUMPHS FOR OPPOSITION CANDIDATES; APOYEMATINI ESTIMATED THAT 65 PCT OF THE COALITION-BACKED CANDIDATES WERE SUCCESSFUL; IT ALSO NOTE THAT THE MOST DRAMATIC KKE/EXTERIOR WIN WAS IN THE PM'S HOME TOWN OF SERRES. GENERALLY, THE PRO-GOG PRESS IGNORED ANY PARTISAN INTERPRETATIONS WHILE THE CIRICAL PRESS VIEWED THE RESULTS AS A MAJOR VICTORY FOR THE "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" THIS IS A SLOGAN WHICH CA BE INTERPRETED NARROWLY TO MEAN ONLY OPPOSITIONELEMENTS OR BROADLY, AS IS THE THEME OF KATHIMERINI, TO INCLUDE THE NOTE THAT THE ELECTORATE WANTED ONCE MORE TO EXPRESS DECISIVE HOSTILITY TO ANY VESTIGE OF THE JUNTA ERA WITHOUT NECESSARILY RENDERING ANY JUDGMENT AGAINST THE PRESENT HANDLING OF DEJUNTIZATION.

4. COMMENT. LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRADITIONALLY IN GREECE HAVE WORN LIGHTLY PARTISAN LABELS, USUALLY IDENTIFIED AS SIMPLY "CONSERVATIVE-ORIENTED" OR "LIBERAL" PERSONALITY. THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS SCORED IN THESE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BY AGGRESSIVELY SOUNDING PARTISAN NOTES ALTHOUGH NATIONAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS LIMITED UNLESS POLITICAL PARTIES ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOLDERS WITH NATIONOAL ISSUES ON AN ONGOING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BASIS. THIS WAS POSSIBLE TO A DEGREE IN THE CAMPAIGNS JUST CONCLUDED BECAUSE OF THE STILL OVERRRIDING POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE JUNTA ISSUE.  
KUBISCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION PARTIES  
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